REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed March 30, 2006, Applicants have studied the Examiner's comments and the cited art. Claims 1-59 are currently pending. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Objections to the Specification

The specification was objected to because the initial paragraph of the specification did not properly identify a co-pending US Patent Application that was incorporated by reference. Applicant has amended the specification to properly identify the co-pending US Patent Application.

Terminal Disclaimer Under 37 CFR 1.321(c)

Claims 1-59 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-30, 32-35, 37-44, 55, 59 and 60 of a co-pending Application No. 10/055,529.

Applicants have filed a terminal disclaimer herewith in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) to over come the double patenting rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-59 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The Examiner said that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the claim limitation "low-processor-load aggregation device" recited in the independent claims.

Applicant respectfully submit that the low-processor-load aggregation device 250 is described in lines 10-24 on page 10 of the specification and is also illustrated in Figure 2.

As described in lines 10-24 on page 10 of the specification, the low-processor-load aggregation device 250 interfaces with a standard routing device 210. The standard routing device 210 is shown in Figure 2 spanning the boundary of the low-processor-load aggregation device.

As shown in Figure 2, the architecture of the low-processor-load aggregation device 250 is such that a host processor 202 does not act as a bottle neck for data transmission. This is contrary to a prior art aggregation device 104 shown in Figure 1B, wherein data transiting the

aggregation device 104 must pass through a host processor 202. Thus, in the prior art, the host processor 202 serves as a bottleneck for data transmission.

Applicants submit that the low-processor-load aggregation device 250 is further described on page 11, lines 15-27 of the specification, wherein the low-processor-load aggregation device 250 is described as being composed of a hybrid network. Thus, the low-processor-load aggregation device is described in the specification.

The Examiner rejected claims 27-39 and 46-51 because the structure relied on to support the low-processor-load aggregation device was unclear. The Examiner requested that Applicants indicate specific sections of the specification that provide the structure.

Applicants respectfully submit that one embodiment of the low-processor-load aggregation device 250 is illustrated in Figure 2. Also, one embodiment of the low-processor-load aggregation device 250 is described on page 10, lines 10-24 of the specification and also on page 11, lines 15-27 of the specification.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 USC 112.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Ono et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,967,958. The Examiner said that Ono discloses various components of the low-processor-load aggregation device in Figures 1, 2 and 3, and in Col. 9, lines 53-63. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

Applicants submit that Ono discloses a communication status notification apparatus that enables a subscriber to observe various kinds of communication status in a network. (Col. 4, lines 50-55 of Ono). Ono does not teach or suggest a low-processor-load aggregation device as shown in Figure 2 of the present application, _which eliminates a bottleneck for data transmission by removing the host processor 202 from the data transition path._

Applicants respectfully submit that Figure 1 of Ono discloses an IP network 9 coupled to a set of gateway equipment that are not equivalent to the low-processor-load aggregation device recited in the claims. Figures 2 and 3 of Ono disclose a communication status notification apparatus that is not equivalent to the low-processor-load aggregation device recited in the claims. Also, Col. 9, lines 53-63 of Ono describe VoIP gateway terminals, which is not equivalent to the low-processor-load aggregation device 250 disclosed in the present application that eliminates data bottleneck by removing the host processor 202 from the data transition path (See Figure 2 of the present application).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 USC 102 and pass the claims to allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Rekhter et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,339,595. The Examiner said that Col. 3, lines 37-56 of Rekhter, Col. 2, lines 63-65 of Rekhter and Col. 6, lines 51-67 of Rekhter disclose a substantially same invention as recited in the claims. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner.

Applicants submit that Rekhter does not disclose, teach or suggest a low-processor-load aggregation device as claimed in the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that Rekhter discloses a peer-model for Service Providers for virtual private networks with potentially overlapping addresses. Rekhter does not solve the problem of data bottleneck that occur in aggregation devices as discussed above. Consequently, Rekhter does not disclose a low-processor-load aggregation device 250 as illustrated in Figure 2 of the present application.

Specifically, Col. 3, lines 37-56 of Rekhter discusses how a Service Provider makes use of a virtual router. When a PE router (an edge router in the P network as described in Col. 2, lines 63-65 of Rekhter) receives a packet from a CE router (an edge router), the PE router tags the packet with an indication of the C network (an enterprise network). Thus, there is no discussion of solving data bottleneck by use of a low-load-processor aggregation device 250 as illustrated in Figure 2 of the present application.

Col. 6, lines 51-67 of Rekhter discusses a topology for a Service Provider's connections between two parts of a customer enterprise VPN. Again, there is no discussion of any equivalent structure of a low-processor-load aggregation device as claimed in the present application.

In view of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-59 are allowable over Rekhter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 USC 103 and pass the claims to allowance.
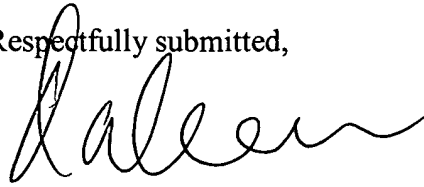
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all issues and rejections have been adequately addressed, that all claims are allowable, and that the case should be advanced to issuance.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss the claims, Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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